

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1.** (Canceled)

**Claim 2.** (Previously Presented) An insoluble powder having a negative value of zeta-potential and a main ingredient of barium sulfate doped with a metal ion;

wherein said powder has an average primary particle diameter of 3 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  and an aspect ratio of 3 to 250; and

wherein said metal ion is one selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium and zinc.

**Claim 3.** (Canceled)

**Claim 4.** (Currently Amended) The insoluble powder according to ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein said barium sulfate is obtained by reacting a barium ion and a sulfate ion in the presence of said ~~[[a]]~~ metal ion.

**Claim 5.** (Currently Amended) The insoluble powder according to claim ~~Claim~~ 4, wherein ~~a mole ratio of the barium ion, the sulfate ion and the metal ion~~ has a mole ratio of 1:0.5 to 2:0.001 to 10-1 to 0.5-2.0 to 0.001-10.

**Claim 6-14.** (Canceled)

**Claim 15.** (Currently Amended) A skin external composition comprising 1-40% by weight of said insoluble powder according to claim ~~Claim~~ 2.

**Claim 16.** (Currently Amended) A method for recovering barrier function in a skin, comprising: applying to said skin an effective amount of the insoluble powder of claim ~~Claim~~ 2.

**Claim 17.** (Currently Amended) A method for preventing roughness and improving conditions of a skin comprising:  
  
applying an effective amount of the insoluble powder according to claim ~~Claim~~ 2.

**Claim 18.** (Canceled)

**Claim 19.** (New). The insoluble powder according to claim 2, wherein said barium sulfate doped with said metal ion is prepared by:

mixing a barium compound solution and a metal salt compound solution containing said metal ion to form a mixture; and  
  
adding said mixture to a sulfate compound solution containing a sulfate ion to form said insoluble powder.

**Claim 20.** (New) The insoluble powder according to claim 19, wherein said barium compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of barium hydroxide, barium chloride, barium sulfide, barium nitrate, and barium acetate.

**Claim 21.** (New) The insoluble powder according to claim 19, wherein said sulfate compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid, sodium sulfate, sodium hydrogensulfate, ammonium sulfate, potassium sulfate, and lithium sulfate.

**Claim 22.** (New) The insoluble powder according to claim 2, wherein said barium sulfate doped with said metal ion is prepared by:

adding a barium compound solution containing a barium ion and a sulfate compound solution containing a sulfate ion to a metal salt compound solution containing said metal ion to form said barium sulfate doped with said metal ion.

**Claim 23.** (New) The insoluble powder according to claim 22, wherein said barium compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of barium hydroxide, barium chloride, barium sulfide, barium nitrate, and barium acetate.

**Claim 24.** (New) The insoluble powder according to claim 22, wherein said sulfate compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid, sodium sulfate, sodium hydrogensulfate, ammonium sulfate, potassium sulfate, and lithium sulfate.

**Claim 25.** (New) A method for making said barium sulfate doped with said metal ion according to claim 2 comprising:

mixing a barium compound solution and a metal salt compound solution containing said metal ion to form a mixture; and

adding said mixture to a sulfate compound solution containing a sulfate ion to form said barium sulfate doped with said metal ion.

**Claim 26.** (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein said method is reacted at a temperature of 50 to 100°C.

**Claim 27.** (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein said method is reacted at a temperature of 70 to 100°C.

**Claim 28.** (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein concentrations of said barium compound and said sulfate compound are 0.001 to 0.1 mol/L.

**Claim 29.** (New). A method for making barium sulfate doped with said metal ion according to claim 2 comprising:

adding a barium compound solution containing a barium ion and a sulfate compound solution containing a sulfate ion to a metal salt compound solution containing said metal ion to form said barium sulfate doped with said metal ion.

**Claim 30.** (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein said method is reacted at a temperature of 50 to 100°C.

**Claim 31.** (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein said method is reacted at a temperature of 70 to 100°C.

**Claim 32.** (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein concentrations of said barium compound and said sulfate compound are 0.001 to 0.1 mol/L.